

The Renzi Report

VOL. 4 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2006

Your Direct Link to the News and Events from Our Nation's Capital and Rural Arizona


Dear Fellow Arizonan:

The 4th of July is one of the purest American holidays. This is a holiday for patriots, and for people who love their country and understand how lucky we are to live here. Our nation is guided by the wisdom of our founding fathers like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln.

Their visionary ideas and actions have helped shape our nation as the greatest country in the world. America's Independence Day on July 4th is also a fitting time to remember the men and women who are protecting our nation's freedoms and liberties. The values that we cherish as Americans serve as a global blueprint of tolerance and justice. Happy birthday America!

As always, feel free to tell your family members, friends and neighbors about the Renzi Report. You can sign up to receive this email and find additional information about developments in Congress at my website. Just click on the following link: <http://www.house.gov/renzi>.

If you have any questions or comments about this e-newsletter or anything else, please e-mail me at rick.renzi@mail.house.gov and I will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you and may God Bless America.



Rick Renzi

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please send an email to rick.renzi1@mail.house.gov and type UNSUBSCRIBE.



Congressman Rick Renzi welcomes Hopi Tribal Chairman Ivan Sidney and Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley to Capitol Hill. Congressman Renzi recently led a House Resources Committee hearing to examine the Navajo-Hopi relocation process. This was the first House hearing on the issue in more than 20 years.

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Rural Arizona Native American Update



Congressman Rick Renzi recently offered an amendment to strip funds from the United Nations and give it to tribes for law enforcement funding. The amendment was accepted by the House.

Renzi Fights to Increase Tribal Law Enforcement Funding by \$5 Million

The House of Representatives approved an amendment recently by Congressman Rick Renzi to increase funding for tribal law enforcement. Renzi's amendment would increase tribal law enforcement funding by \$5 million, while reducing funding for international agencies, such as the United Nations, by \$5 million.

"Gangs, drugs, and lack of a police presence are tearing at the fabric of the traditional Native American way of life," said Congressman Rick Renzi. "Methamphetamine use is reaching epidemic levels and gangs have gained a strong foothold on our Native American youth. Before we spend it overseas, let's spend it here at home."

Congressman Renzi is fighting for the increase because funding for tribal law enforcement and justice programs was cut by \$3 million this year, from \$44 to \$41 million. Renzi noted that the Navajo Nation, with a landmass the size of West Virginia, has only one police officer per 4000 residents.

Renzi Pushes to Ensure Access to Healthcare for Native Americans

Congressman Rick Renzi is fighting to ensure access to healthcare for thousands of Native Americans who may not have traditional forms of identification. Renzi pushed the Department of Health and Human Services to consider alternative forms of identification like tribal membership cards or certificate of Indian blood when considering Medicaid eligibility. The Department recently announced that they would accept these alternative forms of identification.

"This decision will ensure that those without traditional forms of identification will not be turned away for healthcare," Congressman Renzi said. "We will not let any Native American be denied access to healthcare on a bureaucratic technicality, and we will continue to work with Indian Health Service and others improve access to healthcare for all Native Americans."

Renzi's Committee Examines Navajo-Hopi Relocation

Congressman Rick Renzi recently led a House Resources Committee hearing to examine the Navajo-Hopi relocation process. This was the first House hearing on the issue in more than 20 years. Congressman Renzi is working with the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe to draft legislation to address the remaining issues pertaining to relocation. Renzi's bill would expand the Office of Navajo – Hopi Relocation to include rehabilitation and would recommend development of the "Bennett Freeze."

"Congress needs critical information about the relocation process in order to finally resolve this situation," said Congressman Renzi. "We need to build upon what we have accomplished in order to break this cycle of poverty."

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update

Renzi Coming to Prescott, Show Low and Payson for July 4th

Congressman Rick Renzi will be in Prescott, Show Low and Payson during the July 4th holiday weekend.

“The 4th of July is one of the purest American holidays,” said Congressman Renzi. “This is a holiday for patriots, and for people who love their country and understand how lucky we are to live here.”

SATURDAY - JULY 1, 2006 – PRESCOTT

**9:00AM - Prescott Frontier Days Parade
Prescott Courtyard Plaza
Prescott, AZ**

TUESDAY - JULY 4 - SHOW LOW – PAYSON

**7:00am - Show Low July 4th pancake breakfast
Show Low, AZ**

**10:00am - Show Low 4th of July Parade
15th and West Owen
Show Low, AZ**

**9:30pm - Payson 4th of July Fireworks
Celebration
Greenway Park
Payson, AZ**

Renzi Announces New Veterans Outpatient Clinic for Miami-Globe

Congressman Rick Renzi announced a new Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for the Miami-Globe area. Congressman Renzi was notified recently by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson about the new clinic.

The clinic is expected to serve more than 900 veterans from rural Arizona and will provide primary care as well as mental health services. The Department of Veterans Affairs will be conducting a site survey in the coming months to determine the best location for the new clinic. The opening date for the new clinic will be announced in the coming weeks.

“This is great news for our veterans living in rural Arizona,” said Congressman Renzi. “This new clinic will make vital health care services more accessible to those who need it most. We can never fully repay our veterans for their courage and sacrifices, but we must fight to provide them with the benefits and assistance they have earned.”

Arizona is home to more than 500,000 veterans. In Arizona, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates three major medical centers, 15 outpatient clinics, three nursing homes and three vet centers in the state.

Renzi Announces Emergency Fire Grants for Sedona, Flagstaff and Northern Arizona

Congressman Rick Renzi recently announced emergency fire grants for Sedona, Flagstaff and Northern Arizona to help fight fires threatening communities. The grants allowed fire officials to accumulate an emergency expense account that will be reimbursed by the federal government as a 75 percent cost share agreement until the fire is under control. Renzi said the grants will also cover the cost of emergency equipment, supplies, operations centers, firefighter safety items, mobilization costs and other firefighting needs.

“These emergency grants are welcome news for the communities of northern Arizona,” said Congressman Renzi. “These funds will help provide resources to fight this fire and provide assistance for evacuees.”

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Rural Arizona Legislative Update Part 2



Congressman Rick Renzi receives the 2006 Defender of Freedom Award from Gun Owners of America (GOA). The award was presented to Congressman Renzi for his tireless efforts at defending and preserving the Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

Renzi Secures \$1.5 Million for Rio de Flag Flood Control Project

Congressman Rick Renzi recently announced \$1.5 million in new funding for the Rio de Flag flood control project in Flagstaff. The funds were contained in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill which recently passed the House. Last year Congressman Renzi secured \$6.5 million for Rio de Flag. These new funds represent more than \$8 million that Congressman Renzi has secured for the project. The federal funds will pay for new bridges and regional transportation improvements for the Rio de Flag drainage channel area in Flagstaff, including replacement bridges at the intersections of Aspen, Birch, Cherry, Bonito and Thorp roads. Congressman Renzi said given the increase in project costs, he will continue to work with the Senate and other members of the Arizona delegation to secure a specific authorization and subsequent appropriation for full funding for the Rio de Flag project.

“The Rio de Flag project is critical to the City’s economic growth and prosperity and will protect thousands of structures,” said Congressman Renzi. “This funding will provide businesses and residents along the Rio de Flag much needed security from the danger of catastrophic flooding.”

Flooding along the Rio de Flag canal has occurred as far back as far as 1888. It is estimated that a single 100-year flood would damage historic structures, Route 66 and other public infrastructures including the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and Northern Arizona University. Experts advise that a flood of this magnitude would close the university and make large areas of Flagstaff inaccessible for days.

Renzi Announces Fix for Prescott Valley Postal Issue

Congressman Rick Renzi recently announced that the United States Postal Service will be adding a new mail window for Prescott Valley by September 2006. The goal for the new mail window is to shorten the length of time postal patrons wait in line to conduct their business. Congressman Renzi was contacted by the residents who were frustrated because of the long lines and the added difficulty they experienced at the Prescott Valley branch of the Post Office.

“A new mail window in Prescott Valley will go a long way to help ease the frustration and waiting time residents are experiencing,” said Congressman Renzi. “While this is great news for Prescott Valley and will mean shorter lines for everyone, we are continuing to demand that the Postal Service address the overnight mail issue.”

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Arizona Homeland Security Update

Congressman Renzi Calls Death of Al – Zargawi Victory for Freedom

Congressman Rick Renzi one of nine members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the only member from Arizona, said the successful military operation that resulted in the death of Al Qaeda terrorist leader Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi was a victory for freedom.

“Al-Zarqawi’s death will help make the world safer by removing a key mastermind of terror whose barbaric actions included beheadings of Americans on live television. We must continue to focus on building up the Iraqi government and tracking and defeating terror all over the world.”

Renzi: America Will Endure and Prevail in Global War on Terror

Congressman Rick Renzi, one of nine members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the only member from Arizona, said America will prevail during a debate on the Global War on Terror.

“This resolution is about prevailing against our enemies and achieving a shared success with the Iraqi and Afghan people. This is about taking the fight to those who will strike America again, and who wish to wound our nation and kill our innocent civilians. Today we honor the Americans who carry the burdens of war, the soldiers, the families, intelligence officers and those who still have the determination and the will to continue the battle. America stay strong! Endure America, endure and prevail!”

Renzi Fights to Lower Gas Prices and Increase U.S. Refinery Capacity

Congressman Rick Renzi recently voted to lower gas prices, increase refinery capacity and help shield America from price shocks that result from reliance on other nations to process and produce oil. Currently there have been no new refineries built in the U.S. in more than 30 years and this bill will help coordinate federal and state agencies to make it easier for new refinery permits to be issued. Renzi last month voted to toughen price gouging laws and earlier called for an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission into high gas prices in Arizona and across the nation.

“We have not built a new refinery in more than 30 years and in that time our nation’s thirst for gasoline has only increased,” said Congressman Renzi. “There is no easy fix for high gas prices, but more refineries will help ease future price shocks. While this is a first step, I will continue to push the Congress towards the future of alternative and renewable fuel sources and work to end our dependency on foreign oil.”

Congressman Renzi has been aggressively pushing oil companies to invest in increased alternative and renewable fuel programs to help lessen America’s dependence on foreign sources of oil. Renzi, who drives a hybrid gasoline-electric vehicle, is also calling on the auto industry to produce more flex fuel vehicles to run on alternative and renewable fuels. Congressman Renzi is co-sponsoring legislation (HR 4357) in the House to help America become more energy independent with specific goals that will require a ten percent blend of renewable fuels in American gasoline by 2010.

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In Case You Missed It...

Dispute continues over Navajo/Hopi settlement

<http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/content.cfm?id=1096413191>

Republican Conservationists Welcome Landscape Conservation Caucus

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20060622222846nnn.nh/newsblaze/TopStory/Top-Story.html>

State to pay \$5.2M to prove citizenship for health care

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/index.php?sty=68138>

Legislature OKs bill on rock-climbing attraction

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0621rockpark0621.html>

Munsil: Conservatism is what Arizona needs

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16804234&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=68561&rfi=6

Fossil Creek needs special legal status

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/opinions/articles/0612mon1-12.html>

Bill introduced in House to preserve rural housing

http://www.housingfinance.com/ahf/articles/2006/june/014_ahfjun06.htm

Work proceeding to repair flood dike outside Florence

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16726195&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=68561&rfi=6

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